

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 /066 W

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 112

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

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FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 24

REF: BEIRUT 7628

1. SUMMARY. SARKIS INAUGURATED AND DELIVERS ADDRESS

DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL WILLA

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KARAME EXPECTED SUYOLNATION SEP 24, BUT TO CONTINUE

AS HEAD OF CARETAKER CABINET. SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE DIALOGUE SESSION POSTPONED. ARAFAT IN MESSAGE TO SARKIS SAYS PALESTINIANS PLAN UNILATERAL CEASE-FIRE BUT DOES NOT SAY WHEN IT WILL BEGIN. AN NAHAR PUBLISHES SADAT INTERVIEW SAYING EGYPT WILLING SEND "ALL SORTS OF ARMS, BUT NO SOLDIERS" TO LEBANON. FRANGIE CLAIMS INTRA-RIGHTIST TROUBLES RESOLVED IN NORTH LEBANON. MILITARY ACTION REDUCED AND DEATH TOLL DOWN THOUGH SHELLING CONTINUES. PRESS REPORTS US AND FRENCH STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT TO SARKIS. END SUMMARY.

2. INAUGURATION. SARKIS SWORN IN AT CHTAURA BEFORE 67 DEPUTIES AND DELIVERED CAUTIOUSLY WORDED INAUGURAL

ADDRESS. CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT WERE RASHID KARAME, SAEB SALAM, RAYMOND EDDE AND KAMAL JUNBLATT. PROMINENT MUSLIMS ATTENDING INCLUDED FORMER RASHID SOLH AND ABDALLAH YAFI. INAUGURAL ADDRESS CALLED FOR COOPERATION OF ALL GROUPS TO ACHIEVE "CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE," RECONSTRUCTION OF ARMY AND PEACE SETTLEMENT WITHOUT HARM TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE." SARKIS NOTED SYRIAN PRESENCE IS SUBJECT TO LEBANESE AUTHORITY. HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS REPRESENTING "A NATIONAL WILL WHICH HAS ELEVATED ME AND WHICH IS ABLE TO CREATE A NEW STATE." (SEPTEL.) SYRIAN AND LEBANESE "VANGUARD" FORCES WERE IN CHTAURA IN LARGE NUMBERS. LEFTIST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COMPLAINED THEY WERE EXCLUDED FROM MEETING. SARKIS LATER RECEIVED CONGRATULATIONS AT ZABLE WHERE POPULACE GAVE HIM HERO'S WELCOME AND HAD LUNCH WITH CHAMOUN, THE COMMANDER OF SYRIAN FORCES IN THE BEKAA, AND, ACCORDING TO "BEIRUT," SAIQA LEADER ZOHAIR MUHSIN, SURPRISE VISITOR WAS FORMER SHIBABIST G-2 GABBY LAHUD.

3. RESIGNATION OF GOVERNMENT. PM KARAME EXPECTED SUBMIT RESIGNATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO SARKIS VIA SEP 24 RADIO BROADCAST. KARAME, WHO SAYS BROADCAST CHOSEN DUE LACK OF TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION, NEVERTHELESS SCHEDULED MEET WITH SARKIS SEP 25 AT BAABDA AMID SPECULATION SARKIS WILL ASK HIM AND HIS CABINET TO STAY ON UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR  
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REPORTS SPECULATION SAEB SALAM OR TAKIEDDINE SOLH MIGHT BE CALLED UPON BY SARKIS TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT OF "SIX OR EIGHT TECHNOCRATS" IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

4. TRIPARTITE MEETING. AL'S HASSAN SABRI KHOLI VQ SEP 23 WITH PALESTINIANS HANI AL-HASSAN AND ABU MAZEN TO DISCUSS NEXT SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE MEETING. SESSION SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 24 HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL

AFTER ID AL-FITR HOLIDAYS (SEP 24-26). L'ORIENT-LE JOUR SAYS NEXT SESSION MAY BE HELD AT BAABDA. AL-HASSAN WILL CARRY KHOLI'S INITIATIVE TO PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP AND ABU MAZEN EXPECTED TRY TO GET SYRIANS AGREE CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE.

5. PALESTINIAN CEASE-FIRE, JUNBLATT DISAPPROVAL. YASIR ARAFAT SENT MESSAGE SEP 23 TO SARKIS THAT PALESTINIANS PLAN UNILATERAL CEASE-FIRE EXCEPT ON FRONTS IN DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL. MESSAGE AMBIGUOUS ON WHEN CEASE-FIRE BEGAN OR WILL BEGIN. ARAFAT SAID HE WOULD ASK AL TO REINFORCE ITS MILITARY CONTINGENTS IN COMBAT ZONES. AN NAHAR SAYS MESSAGE FOLLOWED MEETING BETWEEN HASSAN SABRI KHOLI, LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVES BRIGADIER MUSA KANAAN AND COL. AHMED AL HAJJ, AND PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES ABU IYAD AND COL. SAAD SAYEL. GESTURE UNLIKELY APPEASE CHRISTIANS, WHO DEMAND PALESTINIAN

WITHDRAWAL FROM MOUNTAINS. JUNBLATT REITERATED "NO RETREAT FROM THE MOUNTAINS WITHOUT A TOTAL ACCORD" ON SEP 23. HE WAS NOT CONSULTED BEFORE RELEASE OF ARAFAT MESSAGE AND ACCORDINGLY REFUSED TO ATTEND JOINT MEETING LATE SEP 23. SYRIAN BAATH NEWSPAPER AL KIFAH AL ARABI REPORTS NM MEETING PLANNED AT MUKHTARA TO ADOPT POSITION TOWARD SARKIS WHICH PAPER BELIEVES WILL BE COOPERATIVE.

6. SADAT INTERVIEW. AN NAHAR PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN WHICH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE WILLING SUPPLY SARKIS ALL THE ARMS, MATERIAL OR POLITICAL ASSISTANCE HE REQUIRES, BUT NO TROOPS. SADAT SAID HE READY "AT ANY MOMENT AND ANY PLACE" FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ARAB SUMMIT ON LEBANESE CRISIS. SADAT BLAMED LEBANESE CIVIL WAR ON FRANGIE AND SYRIA WHO, "PREVENTED ARAB STATES FROM PUTTING AN END TO THE CRISIS."

7. FRANGIE INTERVIEW. IN LONG PRESS CONFERENCE LATE SEP 23 FORMER PRESIDENT RENEWED ATTACKS ON KARAME, JUNBLATT AND PALESTINIANS, SAYING APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS WOULD SOLVE 90 PERCENT OF LEBANESE CRISIS. HE BELIEVED ORDER COULD BE MAINTAINED IN LEBANON IF THE 8,000 YOUNG LEBANESE NOW IN CHRISTIAN MILITIAS WERE PLACED UNDER COMMAND OF ARMY. HE SAID TROUBLES BETWEEN RIGHTIST GROUPS IN NORTH LEBANON NOW RESOLVED.

8. GROUND SITUATION. LIMITED SHELLING CONTINUES IN

SEVERAL AREAS BUT GROUND ACTION REDUCED. OFFICIAL DEATH TOLL DOWN TO 64 SEP 23. SOME SHELLS FELL IN BEIRUT RESIDENTIAL AREAS, INCLUDING RAS BEIRUT, BUT DAY RELATIVELY CALM OTHER THAN MUCH CELEBRATORY SHOOTING IN AIR. AS NIGHT FELL ARTILLERY DUELS DEVELOPED ON CONFRONTATION LINE. IN SUBURBS FIGHTING REPORTED AT GALERIE SEMAAN AND BOMBARDMENTS AT CHIYAH/AIN EL-RUMMANEH AND HADETH/LAYLAKI. ARTILLERY DUELS CONTINU UIN HIGH METN, AT ALEY/KAHALE AND ON TRADITIONAL FRONTS NEAR TRIPOLI. LAA CHIVN OF STAFF CLAIMS TO HAVE RECEIVED TWO RECENTLY ORGANIZED INFANTRY BATALLIONS IN WEST BEIRUT. THEY WILL BE GIVEN MISSION OF RESTORING ORDER

ALONG AND TO THE REAR OF LINE OF CONTACT.

9. FOREIGN CONGRATULATIONS. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION TO SARKIS INCLUDING PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER (ON PHALANGE RADIO). STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ALSO MENTIONED BY MEDIA. AS SAFIR REPORTS FRENCH MESSAGE EXPRESSING READINESS GIVE POLITICAL BACKING TO LEBANON AND COOPERATE IN RECONSTRUCTION.

10. IN VIEW OF ID AL-FITR HOLIDAY, NEXT LEBANON SITREP WILL BE SENT MONDAY, SEP 27.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BEIRUT 7628  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 24  
**TAGS:** MILI, PINS, PINT, LE, (SARKIS, ELIAS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006